

**WATER Center**  
101 E. Pawnee  
Wichita, KS 67211  
Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on  
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays  
Closed Holidays  
(316) 337-9262  
Fax (316) 337-9266  
[www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/)



# H2O happenings 2 observations

*A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center*

October - December 2006

Volume 1, Issue 4

## World Water Monitoring Day

The WATER Center will join others around the globe in celebrating World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD).

During October groups of ten or more may contact the WATER Center to schedule a WWMD program. Groups will receive their own testing kit when they pledge to sample additional sites.

**Goals**  
The primary goal of World Water Monitoring Day is to educate and engage citizens in the protection of water resources around the world. Many communities around the world are unaware of the condition of their water quality and the impact of their behaviors on the quality of their water resources. Conducting

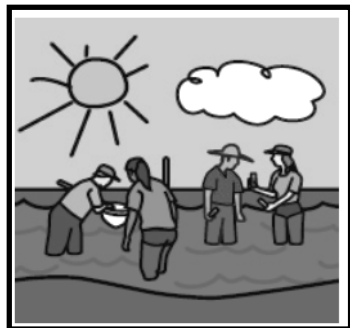
simple monitoring tests teaches participants about some of the most common indicators of water health and encourages further participation in more formal citizen monitoring efforts.

**Background**  
October 18 was selected as World Water Monitoring Day in recognition of the anniversary of the U.S. Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act was enacted by Congress in 1972 and is a milestone in efforts to restore and protect U.S. water resources.

**How is the Monitoring Data Collected Through World Water Monitoring Day Utilized?**  
Water quality scientists use data from more sophisticated monitoring programs to make

decisions on the health and management of water resources. The monitoring tests performed by WWMD participants are designed to bring communities together to learn about the importance of monitoring their local water resources and what they can do to help protect them.

*Source:*  
<http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/about/about.html>



## Small Volunteers Make a Big Impact in 2006



The WATER Center began offering Youth Volunteer Days in January 2006. Since those first cold days, youth have given over 128 hours of service to the Center and the park.

From folding newsletters to trimming trees, moving mulch and cleaning the fountains, these kids have done in hours what would

have taken staff weeks to complete.

Thank you from the staff and all the Center's critters!



### What's Inside?

- "Water Use It Wisely" Campaign
- **NEW! Weekly Fish Feeding Schedule**
- **Senior Wednesday**
- **Meetings and Events**
- **Program Schedule**

### What's New?

#### Turtles Galore!

Meet Mort, Maggie, Tom, RC and Nipper – the five famous turtles on display in the WATER Center.

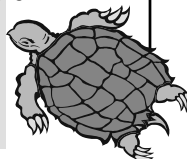
*Why does RC, a River Cooter, have such long claws?*

*Is Tom a boy or a girl?*

*What are the red triangles on Maggie's head?*

*How old is Mort?*

Visit the WATER Center to find out the answers to these questions and to learn what other turtles are native to Kansas.




Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on  
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays  
Closed Holidays

**The WATER Center**  
is located in:  
**Herman Hill Park**

Open daily sunrise to sunset  
18-hole disc golf course  
Accessible trails  
Playground equipment  
Picnic areas



Skateboarding, swimming and  
fishing are prohibited



### PROGRAM REGISTRATION

~ Registration Will Close 5 Days Before the Program Date~

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: M F

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check one: ☒ Over 18 years old ☐ Under 18, what age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### I PLAN TO ATTEND THESE PROGRAMS:

	DATE	PROGRAM	TIME	AGE	COST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	October 10	Fish Tales	10 AM	Ages 2-6	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	October 10	Soggy Chemistry	4-5 PM	Grades 5-12	\$ 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	October 13	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	October 26	Fish Printing	4-5 PM	Grades 3-8	\$ 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	November 14	Fish Tales	10 AM	Ages 2-6	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	November 14	Water Safari	4-5 PM	Grades K-3	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	December 12	Fish Tales	10 AM	Ages 2-6	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	December 21	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	December 29	Family Fun Day	2-4 PM	All Ages	Free

### REGISTRATION COMPLETION:

Program Fee Totals \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to the **WATER Center**.  
**Mail Registration and Fees to: PROGRAMS, WATER Center,**  
**101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211**  
**Or Fax: 316-337-9266**

Youth Volunteer Days are for children **ages 8-15** years old and space is limited.

### PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

There will be youth volunteer activities from **1 p.m. until 3 p.m.** on the following days:

**Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Project: Repair waterfall in the creek. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring dry ones to change into.

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Project: Assist staff with a number of indoor projects.

**CALL TO REGISTER  
SPACE IS LIMITED  
316-337-9262**

## Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

### October

4<sup>th</sup> District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

11<sup>th</sup> Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

### November

1<sup>st</sup> District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

8<sup>th</sup> Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

13<sup>th</sup> Arkansas River Coalition 6:30-9:30 PM

### December

6<sup>th</sup> District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

8<sup>th</sup> Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

## Program Schedule

### Youth

#### FISH TALES

Second Tuesday of the Month  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>,  
December 12<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM, Ages 2-6, Free

No registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature surprise! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

#### YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

1:00 – 3:00 PM, Ages 8-15, Free

Pre-registration required

Help the museum staff with WATER Center projects.

#### FAMILY FUN DAY

Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

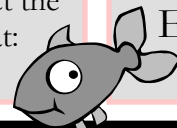
2:00 – 4:00 PM, All Ages, Free

Please Pre-register

Feed the Ducks  
Treatment Plant Tours  
Crafts & Games

#### Attention High School Students:

Applications for the 2007 Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology program will be available this fall! Contact the American Fisheries Society at: [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org).



**FISH FEEDINGS**  
Every Monday and Friday  
3:00 PM

### AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

*Registration Required ~ Space is Limited*

All Programs: 4:00-5:00 PM

#### SOGGY CHEMISTRY

Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Grade: 5-12<sup>th</sup>, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Join others around the globe in celebrating World Water Monitoring Day by testing the water in the Arkansas River and in the WATER Center's creek. How much oxygen is in the river? What does pH mean? Find out these answers plus the impact of the answers can have on our aquatic communities.

#### FISH PRINTING

Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

Grade: 3-8<sup>th</sup>, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Gyo = Fish / Taku = Impression. "Gyotaku" is the ancient Japanese folk art of printing fish. Compare and contrast fish anatomy while creating a beautiful item using this unusual art.

#### WATER SAFARI

Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

Grade: K-3<sup>rd</sup>, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Be an urban expolorer! How do the city creatures get their water? We will make a nature journal and go on a wildlife safari in Herman Hill Park.

### ~Senior Wednesdays~

*Adults 55+*

~

*No Registration Required*

#### NATURE VIEWS ARTIST VIEWS NATURE

Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

A local artist shares the interaction between art and its creative influences.

#### ARKAN"ZAS" OR ARKAN"SAW"?

Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Paddler Chris Collins shares his enthusiasm for our grand, diverse river.

#### SR. WED. HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

At the Wichita Art Museum

10 AM, Free

Enjoy coffee and treats in the S. Jim and Darla Farha Great Hall and hear about the exciting upcoming spring programs from all eight of the participating Senior Wednesday organizations. There will be a raffle of special items from the participating venues. Have a fun and relaxing time in a social atmosphere.

## Ripple Effects

"For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction."  
~ Sir Isaac Newton

From books, posters, aquariums, fish pillows, office supplies and even ducks and fish, the WATER Center has received many generous donations over the last three years. Often what a visitor experiences is due directly to a volunteer's effort or a citizen's gift.

Due to the sponsorship and grants of local corporations and foundations, the WATER Center's museum will continue to expand its opportunities in 2007.

If you know of someone or something that has created a positive environmental ripple effect in our community and should be featured in *H<sub>2</sub>O*, contact the WATER Center at 316-337-9262.

## Water Use It Wisely

The City's Department of Environmental Services has adopted the international campaign aimed at water conservation.

"There are a number of ways to save water...and they all start with you."

This statement is at the heart of the "Water Use It Wisely" campaign. Other specific tips include:

- ✓ Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ✓ Drop that tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save gallons every time.
- ✓ Reach for the laundry soap only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons each month.
- ✓ Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water-use plant.

✓ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save up to 80 gallons of water every time.

Watch for more "Water Use It Wisely" tips in the newspaper, on the TV, and on the radio in 2007.



## Storm Drains Are For Rain

Like many cities, Wichita's storm drains connect directly with local creeks, streams, ponds and the Arkansas River.

Storm drains are the openings in the street-side curb and gutter system along city streets. The drains funnel rainwater quickly off of roadways and out of neighborhoods after a storm.

Unlike the sanitary sewer system, storm drains do not connect to a treatment plant. Water that flows through the storm drain system empties *untreated* into a natural body of water.

To prevent stormwater pollution:

- ✓ Use lawn chemicals safely
- ✓ Pick up after your pets
- ✓ Recycle used oil
- ✓ Sweep driveways and sidewalks clean
- ✓ Wash your car at a car wash or on the lawn
- ✓ Don't dump waste down the storm drain

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services "Protecting Health – Preserving the Environment"

**D. Kay Johnson**  
*Director*

### WATER Center Staff

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316-337-9264

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## Antarctica

**Under the Ice**

Ready for winter? Explore the amazing seascapes under the Antarctic ice from the comfort of the WATER Center. Stay warm and dry while journeying through a cold and wet world.

Watch the *Antarctica: Under the Ice* video in the Center's museum through the end of December.

*This video was produced by the Natural History New Zealand Limited and filmed by the Wild South Team.*



### Did You Know?

A birch tree evaporates 70 gallons of water per day.

*~US Geological Survey*